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Letter dated 2 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the month of November 2002 under the presidency of China (see annex). This assessment was prepared under my responsibility, following consultations with the other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Yingfan
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Annex to the letter dated 2 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (November 2002)

Introduction

Under the presidency of China, in November 2002, the Security Council addressed a wide range of issues on its agenda, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, the Central African Republic, Somalia, Liberia, Timor-Leste, Bougainville, the Middle East/Palestine, Iraq, Cyprus, Georgia and Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The programme of work included 9 formal meetings, 19 informal consultations of the whole and 1 troop-contributors meeting. The Council adopted four resolutions during the month. The President made four statements to the press on behalf of the Council members and briefed countries not members of the Council on specific issues considered in consultations of the whole. During November, the web site of the Chinese Mission (http://www.china-un.org/) featured the Security Council's programme of work and hyperlinks to the resolutions and to statements by the President to the press.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

During the open meeting held on 5 November, Mahmoud Kassem, Chairman of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, presented the final report of the Panel. Representatives of Angola, Belgium, Canada, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Oman, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, as well as members of the Council, made comments on the report. It was generally believed that the illegal plundering of the natural resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo exacerbated the regional conflict and must be checked, and that efforts should be made to help the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to control its natural resources. Mr. Kassem expressed his hope that the Council would make an early decision on the recommendations contained in the report.

During the informal consultations held on 13 November, Council members highly appraised and supported the efforts made by the Panel in investigating and effectively checking illegal exploitation. They also commented on the measures made by the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of Uganda in cooperating with the Panel in the investigation and supported the early convocation of an international conference in the Great Lakes region. The parties agreed to continue to exchange views on the follow-up of the work of the Panel.

Angola

On 20 November the Council issued a press release by which the Council members welcomed the dissolution of the Joint Commission established by the Lusaka Protocol, which marked the completion of the main tasks of the Angola peace process and allowed the Council to proceed with a review of the question of lifting all the sanctions. The Council members paid tribute to the strong political will of both the Angolan Government and UNITA in achieving the goal of peace. Council members called on the international community to continue to assist the Angolan Government in its efforts to address the serious humanitarian situation in the country.

Central African Republic

During informal consultations on 8 November, Tuliameni Kalomoh, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, briefed the Council on the situation in the Central African Republic, in particular the attempted coup d'état that occurred near the capital. The Council members unanimously condemned the anti-Government forces of the country for their attempt to grab political power through force, expressed their support for the action taken by the Government in restoring peace and stability and stressed the need to pay more attention to the economic and social problems of the Central African Republic. The President issued a press statement after the meeting.

During the informal consultations held on 26 November, the Council heard another briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General. The Council members expressed deep concern over the intense relations between the Central African Republic and Chad, and agreed that the Council would hear briefings by senior officials of both countries. The President issued a press statement after the meeting. Members of the Council reaffirmed their support for the deployment of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) force and the peace effort of CEMAC. They appealed to the Central African Republic and Chad to show mutual restraint and to refrain from any action or statement that could further destabilize the situation.

Somalia

On 7 November Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, briefed the Council on the most recent developments in Somalia. Council members were glad to learn that the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) peace process had made progress, including the signing of the Eldoret Declaration. They agreed that the Council should show its support for the IGAD peace process. Following the briefing, Ambassador Ole Kolby (Norway) introduced a draft presidential statement on Somalia.

Liberia

The Council held consultations on Liberia on 25 and 26 November. The Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001), Ambassador Kishore Mahbubani of Singapore, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on, respectively, Liberia sanctions and new developments in Liberia. The members of the Council supported Mexico's initiative to adopt a comprehensive new strategy on Liberia. The President

made statements to the press afterwards, expressing the Council's concern that the Government of President Taylor continued to violate the sanctions and that he had not met the Council's demands set out in its resolution 1343 (2001), emphasizing that the measures imposed under paragraph 5 of that resolution, as extended by paragraph 5 of resolution 1408 (2002), applied to any recipient in Liberia. On 27 November the draft presidential statement on Liberia prepared by Mexico was distributed to members. On 29 November the President sent a letter on behalf of the Council to the Secretary-General, requesting the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia to enhance the implementation of some tasks, and the Secretary-General to report on the Council by 15 January 2003 on recommendations for a detailed, revised mandate for the Peace-building Support Office.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 27 November the Council discussed and authorized the extension of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in the country until 20 December 2003.

In paragraph 2 of the unanimously adopted resolution 1444 (2002), the Council authorized ISAF to take "all necessary measures" to fulfil its mandate. It also called on Member States to contribute personnel, equipment and other resources to the Force, and to make contributions to the Trust Fund established under resolution 1386 (2001), which defined the Force's authorization.

The Council also welcomed a joint letter from the Foreign Ministers of Germany and the Netherlands to Secretary-General Kofi Annan (S/2002/1296) expressing the willingness of their countries to jointly assume from Turkey the lead in commanding the Force.

Timor-Leste

On 14 November the Council held a public meeting to review the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) (S/2002/1223). During the meeting the members of the Council were briefed by Kamalesh Sharma, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, on the latest situation in the country, as well as on the role UNMISET played in enabling the newly founded country to meet its political, social and economic goals. Members commended the country for the progress it had made in national capacity-building and good-neighbourly policies since independence, and expressed their satisfaction with the active role played by UNMISET. They stressed that Timor-Leste was still faced with many challenges and called for the international community to fulfil its commitment and to provide further assistance.

Bougainville

On 21 November the Council members were briefed in an open meeting by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on the peace process in Bougainville. According to the Under-Secretary-General, the peace process and weapons-collection programme had been delayed and the momentum for arms disposal had slowed down. In consequence, the Secretary-General had written to the Council

requesting an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville for another 12 months (see S/2002/1379). Council members commended all parties to the peace process for the progress made in the main areas of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and also expressed their concern at recent setbacks. Council members acknowledged the important role of the Political Office in Bougainville in the peace process and supported the extension of its mandate.

Georgia

A letter to the presidency from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations requesting an open meeting to review the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2002/1141), was received on 30 October. The Council then held informal consultations and decided to postpone the meeting until early December, so as to consider the issue in conjunction with a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on his trip to the Caucasus.

Middle East

Palestine

On 12 November an open briefing was held, followed by consultations of the whole. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the latest and overall situation in the Middle East and the political efforts of the international community, emphasizing the severity of the situation and the urgent need for the international community to facilitate the political process, including the finalization of the road map proposed by the Quartet. The Under-Secretary-General also briefed the Council on developments in the Wazzani Springs water project on the border between Lebanon and Israel, stressing the need to resolve the issue through diplomatic means and the need for the involvement of the international community. Following the open briefing, the Council members exchanged views on the issue in the consultations, expressing agreement on the Under-Secretary-General's assessment of the situation in the region and stating that the Middle East issue must be resolved on the basis of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace agreement.

On 29 November, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and with the consent of the Council members, the President of the Council delivered a speech on behalf of the Council at the special meeting of the Committee in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, held in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

Iraq

The Council held informal consultations on 6 and 7 November, considering the draft resolution on Iraq proposed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. After hearing explanations of relevant paragraphs by the sponsors and having intensive discussions, members of the Council reached a preliminary agreement on the text. On 8 November the Council adopted resolution 1441 (2002) unanimously. All members made

explanations of vote after the vote and emphasized that the resolution did not contain provisions for the automaticity of the use of force.

On 25 November the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) briefed the Council about his recent visit to Baghdad and the talk he had had with the Iraqi side on the implementation of resolution 1441 (2002). Members of the Council welcomed the progress made to date and reiterated their confidence in UNMOVIC.

On 19 November the Council heard a briefing by Benon Sevan, Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme and discussed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the oil-for-food programme (S/2002/1239). Members of the Council, while expressing concern at the difficulties faced by the programme, in particular the dire funding shortfall, emphasized the need to continue the programme so as to meet the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. On 25 November the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1443 (2002), extending the oil-for-food programme till 4 December 2002.

Europe

Cyprus

On 11 November the Council held consultations at which the Secretary-General informed the members that he had put forward proposals as a basis for agreement on a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. Members of the Council welcomed that step and reaffirmed their full support for the continuation of his mission of good offices.

On 22 November the Council held consultations at which it heard a briefing by Joachim Hütter, Director of the Europe and Latin America Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Members commended the efforts of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in maintaining stability in Cyprus. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft resolution on the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP.

The President of the Council met on 22 November with the four parties involved in the dispute and delivered the draft resolution to them. He heard their comments on the draft resolution and transmitted them to the Council at its consultations on 25 November.

On 25 November the Council adopted resolution 1442 (2002) by consensus, extending the mandate of UNFICYP until 15 June 2003.

Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On 6 November the Council held a public meeting to consider the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2002/1126). The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the latest developments related to the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) and activities of UNMIK, particularly on the municipal elections in Kosovo held on 26 October under the supervision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe. Members of the Council focused their discussions on the low turnout of Serbs in

municipal elections, the need to improve the security situation and expedite the process of refugee return, and the responsibility of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government and newly elected municipal officials in protecting all ethnic groups' lawful rights and promoting ethnic reconciliation. They reaffirmed their support for a multi-ethnic, inclusive community in Kosovo and called upon the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government to cooperate with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and UNMIK in this respect.

The representatives of Denmark (in the capacity of Presidency of European Union), the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Japan and Ukraine were invited, at their request, to participate in the discussion and made statements.